GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1652
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Ambedkar's Anniversary Celebration in U.N.
Chinnayan Shri S.Selvakumara

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar's 125th Birth Anniversary was celebrated in April, 2016 for the first time in UN history;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any member of the Council of Ministers of India attended the said function; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As part of Government of India"s special efforts to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in India and at Indian Missions abroad, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN organised a special event on 13 April 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York. This was the first such commemoration of Dr. Ambedkar organised at the UN premises in New York. The Foundation for Human Horizon (a US-based NGO with ECOSOC consultative status) and Kalpana Saroj Foundation (an India-based NGO) were co-hosts of the event.

Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of UNDP delivered the Keynote Address. Hon"ble Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal (Chief Patron of Forum for SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians) delivered Special Remarks. The special event featured a Panel discussion on the theme "Combating Inequalities for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals". The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Shri Syed Akbaruddin and representatives of the two co-host organisations also addressed the gathering. A short documentary on the life and work of Dr. Ambedkar was screened on the occasion. There was also a brief interactive session at the end. Around 550 persons, many from India and other parts of the world attended the event; these included diplomats, senior UN officials, state government officials from India, students, civil society, private sector representatives and scholars at the special event.

(C) No.

(d) Does not arise.